GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2830
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
SURVEY OF BIDI WORKERS
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the condition of Bidi Workers;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the total number of Bidi workers in Rajasthan including women and children and those availing of the benefits of identity card and ESI Hospitals etc.;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a labour welfare centre and a special ESI Hospital in Ajmer; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government have conducted a survey through the Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour onthe Working and Living Conditions of Workers in Beedi Industry. According to this survey report, the percentage distribution of beedi workers by religion/caste is as under.

(a) SC 15.2%
(b) ST 3.3%
(c) OBC 43.3%
(d) Other Hindus 17.1%
(e) Muslims 20.2%
(f) Others 0.9%

As per the same survey, women among factory workers category constitute about 50% and among home workers category constitute about 68% of the total workers engaged in beedi making.

(c): There are approximately 1,00,000 beedi workers in Rajasthan and 70,694 beedi workers have been issued identity cards. 84 beedi workers are covered under ESI scheme in Rajasthan.

(d) & (e): A dispensary set up by Labour Welfare Organisation is already functioning at Ajmer for providing health care facilities to beedi workers and their dependants. There is no proposal to set up an ESIC Hospital at Ajmer.